

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original): A  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound comprising an  $\text{O}_2^-$  ion radical and/or an  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical serving as active oxygen species, said ion radical being clathrated in said compound in a concentration of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  or more.

2. (Currently Amended): A method for producing a  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound comprising the steps of:

preparing a raw material powder including calcium (Ca) and aluminum (Al) mixed with each other in an atomic equivalent ratio of 12 : 14; and

reacting said raw material in a solid phase reaction at a sintering temperature ranging between  $1200^\circ\text{C}$  or more and less than  $1415^\circ\text{C}$ , under a dry oxidization atmosphere with an oxygen partial pressure of  $10^4 \text{ Pa}$  or more and a water-vapor partial pressure of  $10^2 \text{ Pa}$  or less.

3. (Original): A method as defined in claim 2, wherein said raw material includes a calcium component selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium hydroxide and calcium oxide, and an aluminum component selected from the group

consisting of aluminum oxide and aluminum hydroxide.

4. (Currently Amended): A method for releasing an active oxygen species clathrated in the  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound as defined in claim 1, characterized by subjecting said  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound to a heat treatment at a temperature of  $1200^\circ\text{C}$  or more under an atmosphere with an oxygen partial pressure of less than  $10^4$  Pa or a water-vapor partial pressure of more than  $10^2$  Pa ~~or more~~.

5. (Currently Amended): A method for quantitatively analyzing the  $\text{O}_2^-$  ion radical clathrated in the  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound as defined in claim 1, characterized in that an amount of said  $\text{O}_2^-$  ion radical is ~~analyzed~~ measured based on a scattering intensity arising from said  $\text{O}_2^-$  ion radical around a Raman shift of  $1128\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

6. (Currently Amended): A method for quantitatively analyzing the  $\text{O}_2^-$  ion radical and  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical each clathrated in the  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound as defined in claim 1, characterized in that amounts of said  $\text{O}_2^-$  ion radical and said  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical are ~~analyzed~~ measured based on a first electron spin resonance absorption intensity defined by  $g_x = 2.00$ ,  $g_y = 2.01$  and  $g_z = 2.04$ , and a second electron spin resonance absorption intensity defined by  $g_x = g_y = 2.05$  and  $g_z = 2.00$ , respectively.

7. (Original): An oxidization catalyst comprising a  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound including an  $\text{O}_2^-$  ion radical and/or an  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical serving as active oxygen species, said ion radical being clathrated in said compound in a concentration of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  or more.

8. (Original): An antibacterial agent comprising a  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound including an  $\text{O}_2^-$  ion radical and/or an  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical serving as active oxygen species, said ion radical being clathrated in said compound in a concentration of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  or more.

9. (Original): An ion conductor comprising a  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound including an  $\text{O}_2^-$  ion radical and/or an  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical serving as active oxygen species, said ion radical being clathrated in said compound in a concentration of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  or more.

10. (Original): An electrode material for solid-oxide fuel cells, comprising a  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound including an  $\text{O}_2^-$  ion radical and/or an  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical serving as active oxygen species, said ion radical being clathrated in said compound in a concentration of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  or more.

11. (New): A compound, as defined in claim 1, comprising an  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical in a concentration of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  or more.

12. (New): An oxidization catalyst, as defined in claim 7, wherein said  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound includes an  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical in a concentration of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  or more.

13. (New): An antibacterial agent, as defined in claim 8, wherein said  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound includes an  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical in a concentration of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  or more.

14. (New): An ion conductor, as defined in claim 9, wherein said  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound includes an  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical in a concentration of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  or more.

15. (New): An electrode material, as defined in claim 10, wherein said  $12\text{CaO} \cdot 7\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  compound includes an  $\text{O}^-$  ion radical in a concentration of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  or more.

16. (New): A compound, as defined in claim 1, wherein said ion radical is clathrated in said compound in a concentration of  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  or more during the synthesis of said compound by sintering a raw material powder including calcium (Ca) and aluminum (Al) mixed with each other in a solid phase reaction.